

veterans with safe shelter has a shortfall of nearly 10,000 beds.

While VA and community providers try to do right by homeless veterans, the GAO report found that the capacity is not there to meet demand.

The situation will get worse because recent combat veterans are already homeless. Just last year, VA served nearly 600 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan in its Health Care for Homeless Veterans program.

On September 30th, the authorization for two key programs for homeless veterans—the VA Grant and Per Diem program and the Homeless Providers Technical Assistance Grant program—is set to expire.

If we fail to reauthorize these programs, we will be leaving homeless veterans behind. Homelessness is a problem that we can solve.

I urge my colleagues to enact H.R. 5960, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2006, which reauthorizes key programs for homeless veterans and fortifies VA's efforts to prevent and end homelessness among veterans.

HONORING BEVERLY YOUNG FOR HER COMMITMENT TO OUR WOUNDED HEROES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a good friend whom most of us have the pleasure to know, Mrs. Bill Young, or as she prefers to be known to our wounded troops, simply "Beverly." Beverly has been recognized by the United States Marine Corps for her extraordinary commitment to our wounded troops with The Dickey Chapelle Award.

This annual award recognizes civilians who have given extraordinary contribution to the Corps. It is named in honor of the memory of the late Dickey Chapelle, an American correspondent who was killed while covering the actions of Marine infantrymen engaged in combat against enemy forces during the Vietnam war.

Mr. Speaker, this is a well-deserved honor. Beverly and her husband, my friend and colleague, Chairman C.W. "BILL" YOUNG, of Florida, have quietly shown a level of sincere, personal compassion and devotion to our fighting men and women that is not often seen in Washington. They do it without fanfare or seeking recognition in a way that reminds me of the greatness of the American spirit.

The men and women who fight for this country have an uncanny ability to overcome extraordinary odds, both on the battlefield and in life. However, when they are lying in a hospital bed in excruciating pain from terrible, debilitating injuries, there simply is no more difficult personal challenge in this world than trying to recover, physically and mentally.

To Beverly Young, each and every one of them is her child. If she could, I have no doubt she would go into battle with them. Instead, she must content herself with fighting for them in the hospital wards and the bureaucratic halls of Washington as a volunteer.

In truth, "content" is probably the wrong word. Beverly has never been patient when

seeing to it that the troops are receiving what they need and has no qualms about making her feelings known when she sees a problem where they are concerned. She takes action in a way that immediately gets attention and results. As a former drill sergeant myself, it strikes me that she would have made a good one. Affectionately known as "The Hurricane" in the halls of Bethesda and Walter Reed hospitals, she says and does whatever it takes to see that the troops have their needs taken care of. This includes everything from chewing out staff to writing to the President. In neither case does she mince words.

One soldier who was slipping into a catatonic state from so much pain medication credits her with saving his life, literally. She did this by walking out on the experts who were discussing putting him in a psychiatric ward, running into his room and yelling in his ear that he must fight to get better or she and the Commandant would "kick his ass." The soldier promptly "snapped to," and is now back home working in Idaho.

When she got wind that the rules about soldiers receiving donations were being tightened at some bureaucratic level in the Pentagon, she shot off a letter to President Bush expressing her outrage and demanding immediate attention to correct the grievance to her beloved troops. She has impacted the lives of the troops in countless ways, from prompting major policy changes through her vocal advocacy to the generous gift of her personal time one-on-one with the wounded.

Beverly is not an occasional visitor; she is there constantly for these young men and women and their families, becoming as familiar to them as anyone else they encounter during their stay. She is fiercely protective of them. She is not formal or aloof; she insists that the troops call her Beverly. She vastly prefers spending time in the company of these wounded heroes to attending stiff official Washington functions. She will hold their hand for hours when they have no one else to be with them. She feeds them, brings them contraband, slips cash to their families from her own pocket, and hits up everyone she knows, including her own doctor, for all types of donations, whether in-kind or monetary. She LISTS to each and every one of them to find out what they need and if they don't have it, she goes and gets it, whatever it is, from whoever she has to get it from, and brings it to them. She and BILL regularly take them out to dinner.

And perhaps most importantly of all, she sits with them and tells them how much they are loved.

This, Mr. Speaker, is no small contribution to this country. I know of no one who has given more time and energy to making sure these young men and women know that someone cares about each and every one of them and that they can make it through this horrific experience of being wounded in battle. With her intense, unique, passionate style and commitment, Beverly has earned the respect of everyone she meets, military and civilian, politician and bureaucrat. I have no doubt in my mind that Beverly Young has made a tremendous impact in the lives of our service men and women. This country is a better place for her example.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I come to the People's House to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Beverly Young for her selfless service to

our brave young men and women who courageously defend this country. Congratulations, Beverly, and thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR FRANCIS G. TASY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Monsignor Francis G. Tasy. Monsignor Tasy brought great peace and happiness into the lives of the entire community of Kerman. A great loss to all those touched by his benevolence, he passed away on August 2, 2006.

Monsignor Francis G. Tasy was born on October 15, 1925 to Hungarian immigrants who moved to America in the first years of the 20th century. As a young boy at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Msgr. Tasy aspired to lead a devout life. He attended St. Charles College in Roland Park, Maryland and went on to complete his studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Catonsville. Monsignor Tasy was ordained on May 1, 1952.

Following his time at St. Patrick's Parish in Watsonville, California; Msgr. Tasy began his work in the Valley with two years at the Naval Weapons Testing Center at China Lake, followed by one year at St. Francis in Bakersfield. In 1957, he was assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Kerman where he spent the next 26 years. During this time Msgr. Tasy worked tirelessly to transform a small farm church into a thriving Catholic community of active and faithful individuals. Many greatly valued his love for the church and respected his devotion to its success. The Costa Family has wonderful memories with Msgr. Tasy in Kerman and his extraordinary efforts to reinvigorate that parish community. For his outstanding leadership and endless support for those in need, he will be forever remembered.

In 1983 Monsignor Tasy brought his goodwill to Reedley, California after accepting a transfer to the St. Anthony's Parish there. As he did in Kerman years earlier, Monsignor Tasy revitalized the faithful community in Reedley. Faced with a deteriorating church and fading Catholic community, he relied on his sound administration, conventional teaching and complete devotion to restore the church and the local grammar school, St. La Salle.

Monsignor Tasy was an excellent model of success, devotion, and commitment to the well-being of entire communities. He was exemplary in every way with a work ethic worthy of respect and admiration. For all that he accomplished, all that he worked tirelessly for, and all that he hoped for, we will always remember him with gratitude and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY 2006

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida Lighthouse Day 2006, which

will be celebrated on September 16, 2006, at Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse which is located in my district.

This lighthouse was first proposed for Hillsboro Inlet in 1851, although funding did not become available until the early 1900's. The lantern room and cupola were displayed at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition prior to the final construction which lead to the lighthouse being completed and lit in 1907. The light from the Fresnel lens could be seen for 25 miles. This was the last onshore lighthouse built in Florida and it remains in service today.

In 1992, the rotation mechanism failed in the lantern and the U.S. Coast Guard planned to retire the original Fresnel lens. This action would have destroyed the historical integrity of the lighthouse. I was pleased to work with the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, local U.S. Coast Guard personnel and the Coast Guard Auxiliary to facilitate the agreement to restore the lens. On August 18, 2000, I was honored to speak at the re-lighting ceremony hosted by the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.

In 2003, the Hillsboro Lighthouse was chosen to represent Florida lighthouses by the U.S. Postal Service on their lighthouse stamp series.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to give special recognition today to the members of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society. Established in 1997, this organization is dedicated "to promote the history of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education and public access tours."

I look forward to joining my friends this Saturday as we celebrate Florida Lighthouse Day 2006.

IN HONOR OF TOM McMURRAY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom McMurray of Springfield, Illinois, on his retirement on September 30, 2006 as a Taxpayer Advocate for the International Revenue Service. He has more than 33 years of federal service and has spent a majority of that time as an advocate for the American taxpayers.

Mr. McMurray has been a friend to citizens having disputes with the Internal Revenue Service, and through his work as the IRS' Taxpayer Advocate, Mr. McMurray has assisted countless citizens with tax questions. I congratulate Mr. McMurray, his wife Patti and their children, Traci and Scott, on his retirement from the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Advocate Office. I wish Mr. McMurray all the best for an enjoyable retirement.

REMARKS IN HONOR OF THE 12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 1 million senior citizens and people

with disabilities who call the Nation's 36,000 assisted living and residential care facilities "home." Every day, quality assisted living and residential providers are striving to ensure that their services are harmonious with residents' desires.

I am certain that virtually each and every one of us here is cradled by the comfort of knowing that our grandma or grandpa, mom or dad, aunt or uncle, friend or neighbor is being cared for by the noble workers and volunteers at assisted living facilities.

Personally, Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the assisted care facility whose faithful employees provide around-the-clock care for my mother, Litta.

As we celebrate the 12th annual National Assisted Living Week, I stand today with my colleagues to salute the dedicated workers of assisted living facilities across America, and to salute the 1 million seniors and people with disabilities that call those facilities "home."

IN HONOR OF CLAIRE WETHERELL

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions and character of former Idaho State Senator Claire Wetherell, an Idaho woman who is the very embodiment of civic virtue, community involvement and—most of all—class.

A municipal park named in her honor on Monday, September 18, 2006, is a testament to the admiration and affection that the people of her hometown of Mountain Home, ID, hold for Senator Wetherell.

Earlier this year, she was presented with both the key to the city of Mountain Home and a lifetime achievement award from the Elmore Medical Center Auxiliary, which she served as its first president in 1955.

Senator Wetherell also led the bond issue campaign that resulted in construction of the original Elmore Memorial Hospital. In addition, she put her experience as a U.S. Navy nurse during World War II to work as one of the first nurses at the new hospital.

It was my great privilege to serve with Senator Wetherell for 10 of my 14 years as Idaho's lieutenant governor and presiding officer of the Idaho Senate.

Her 12 years in the Idaho Senate, and her 8 years on the Mountain Home City Council, showed that no public official could have a better friend than Claire Wetherell, or a more determined political adversary.

It didn't matter whether you were a Democrat or a Republican; if she liked you she would go out of her way to extend the hand of compromise and conciliation. Yet there was almost nothing an opponent could do that she wasn't fully prepared to challenge.

Senator Wetherell served the public interest with a passion for justice and equal rights, and she applied the same standards to herself. She would make her case with great intensity, but also would be the first to admit when she was mistaken. She was quick to pursue the truth, and just as quick to acknowledge those rare occasions when that pursuit went astray.

Senator Claire Wetherell deserves the congratulations of Congress, and a grateful Na-

tion's thanks for her lifetime of contributions to the people of Mountain Home and all the people of Idaho.

LAKE BARKLEY WATER LEVEL PILOT PROGRAM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I introduced today to create a Pilot Program to extend the summer water level of Lake Barkley, KY, until after Labor Day.

Barkley Dam impounds the Cumberland River near Grand Rivers, KY, creating Lake Barkley, which was taken over by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1966. In order to create this body of water, communities were flooded in the 1960s. Today, people still talk about Eddyville and "Old Eddyville", as well as Kuttawa and "Old Kuttawa". The "Old" areas were the portions of the cities that were left above the water after the areas were flooded. The present day cities were created after the lake was formed. Old foundations, streets, and highways, including U.S. Highways 68 and 62, are still visible in shallow water areas. The Illinois Central Railroad was also relocated and can also still be seen underwater from lowflying planes above.

One mile above the dam is a canal connecting Lake Barkley with Kentucky Lake, forming one of the greatest freshwater recreational complexes in the country. The lakes run parallel for more than 50 miles with Land Between the Lakes recreational area located between them. This site has been used for numerous fishing tournaments and other outdoor events, which have helped to create an economic boon for the Lake Barkley area.

Lake Barkley is 134 miles long with over 1,000 miles of shoreline. The lake's water levels fluctuate from summer to winter "pool levels" for flood control purposes. During the "summer pool" months, recreation and wildlife thrive at the lake. However, the draw down for "winter pool" begins in early July and this becomes extremely dangerous for boaters as tree stumps, old road beds, and other obstructions have caused fatal boating accidents. In addition, the "winter pool" level has become a serious concern in the past few years due to the prolonged siltation, which has made the lake even shallower since its creation.

This pilot program will allow us to test under normal weather conditions what an extended summer pool lake level would mean to enhanced boating safety, recreation, navigation, fishing, and tourism activities, while also enabling us to gauge the economic impact of longer and higher water levels. I believe that these new water levels will make the lake safer for boaters and have a positive impact on the wildlife and the overall lake environment. To that end, this pilot program will ensure the safety of residents and visitors to Lake Barkley, KY, and improve recreation, navigation, and the economic vitality of the lake's region.